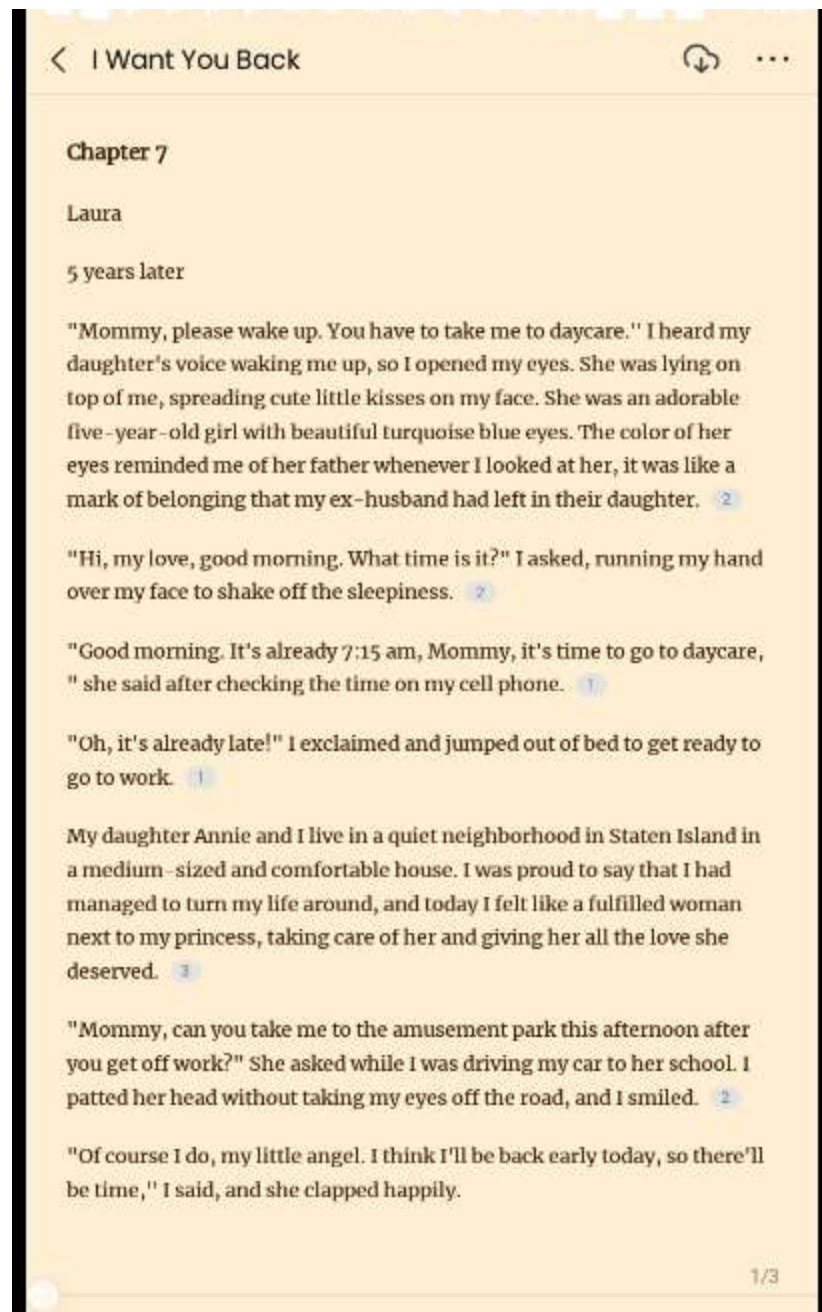


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"Yay, that's great. Thank you, Mommy, I love you so much," she said, smiling beautifully at me. Thank God that my daughter accepted my kindness and not her father's arrogance.

As soon as I parked in her school's courtyard, she gave me a deep hug and said, "See you later, Mommy."

"See you later, my sweetie, have a good day. I love you," I replied without wanting to let go of her, but she had to go to her class and I had to go to work. She smiled and ran to her little friends. I sighed, knowing that my daughter was safe, and then I got in my car and headed to work.

I couldn't deny that in the first few years, my life hadn't been easy, I'd already had a hard time. There were days when I found myself staring at myself with a small baby in my hands, not having enough money to eat or even buy a measly thing like diapers and milk for my daughter. Those were terrible days, but I hadn't given up, I had fought and given my all. 3

I had gone back to studying digital marketing at the college that I had dropped out of to marry that man who hurt me so much. I had picked myself up from the dust to rise again, and things gradually started to work out when I got a job at Hextec, which was a company in marketing and advertising, where I was hired and was working until today.

So now I could guarantee more than the basics for myself and my daughter, as I had dedicated myself so much to my work that Hextec was growing a lot every year because of the projects that my team and I were developing. Honestly, I was in the best phase of my life. I was an independent woman, well-resolved with myself as a mother and worker, and loving and caring for myself more and more. 2

I got out of my car and entered the Hextec facilities. All the employees of that small but prosperous company knew me and treated me very well because I also treated them well, all of them, starting from Mr. Torres,

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Chapter 7

who was the cleaner, to Richard Carter, who was the executive director and owner of the company. 2

"Good morning, Mrs. Thompson, you look stunning today!" Lindsay, our receptionist, complimented me when greeting me. I was wearing a business suit that featured a cubed skirt reaching above my knees, a cyan blue dress shirt and a dark blazer the same color as the skirt, comfortable heels, and my wavy brown hair fell in soft cascades down to the middle of my back. I had an airy, jovial, and charming smile on my face, it was easy for me to smile and talk to everyone. 4

"Thank you so much, Lindsey. You look beautiful too," I complimented her, and I went to my office. I was one of the partners at Hextec, leading it together with Richard, who had been helping me until now. 6

I sat down to start working, and that's when my friend Richard entered my office after knocking twice on the door. 2

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